

FBI Man's Story In Spy Trial

Los Angeles

An FBI agent testified yesterday that a young security clerk working with secret information in an electronics firm confessed to giving secret Central Intelligence Agency codes to the Soviet Union.

Special FBI agent James E. White said at the opening day of the trial of Christopher John Boyce on conspiracy and espionage charges that Boyce confessed to handing over thousands of documents to the Russians.

Boyce, 23, who worked in a secret code teletype vault at TRW, Inc. as a security clerk, and Andrew Daulton Lee, 25, were arrested January 6 after Lee was alleged to have been caught giving documents to Soviet agents in Mexico City.

White said Boyce described himself soon after his arrest as an "adventurer" who was politically disenchanted with the United States.

Boyce, who lives in Palos Verdes, has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Both Boyce and Lee could face the death penalty if found guilty in federal court.

White testified that Boyce said he was encouraged by Soviet agents to leave TRW and take courses in

Soviet and Chinese history so he could get into the State Department.

Boyce worked in a secret code teletype vault at the TRW plant in Redondo Beach from 1974 until he quit in 1976.

White said Boyce told him that he was originally approached by Lee two years ago on the idea of selling documents to the Soviet Union.

Lee is alleged to have made contact with Soviet agents by flying to Mexico City and walking into the Soviet embassy.

After the first contact he let Soviet agents know he was in town by carving an "X" on trees in certain streets in Mexico City, the FBI agent testified.

The Soviet agents contacted the two by telephoning them in a public booth on a Santa Monica intersection across the way from a statue of the Virgin Mary, White said.

White said Boyce told him the agents telephoned them both there and at another phone in an underground parking garage in San Francisco at pre-arranged times.

One call instructed Lee to fly to Vienna, which he did on March 17,



AP Wirephoto

CHRISTOPHER BOYCE He's on trial in Los Angeles

1976, allegedly to receive further instructions.

The Soviet agents also sent mail to the home of Lee's sister in Santa Cruz, using his assigned code-name of "Luis."

White said Lee, who is being tried separately, was described by Boyce as a "hoodlum" who was trusted by neither himself or their Russian contacts.

Reuters